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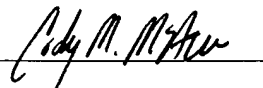
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 04-40018-US1

Applicants: Bondarev et al.

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above application, please enter this Preliminary Amendment.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks appear on page 7 of this paper.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 18-0586.